FIRST® COMICS

FEB. $1.25
NO. 22
$1.60 CANADA

© 1984 FIRST COMICS, INC.

E-MAN™

THE COMING OF CAPTAIN KOALA™

%FIRST COMICS,
1014 DAVIS STREET,
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS
60201

Dear Mike, Joe and Rick,

This issue (number 18) is my first issue of E-Man, and I loved every bit of it, especially the bit about the Great Chicago Fire. Only one thing wrong — E-Man's fingers on the cover. Or more specifically, his thumbs. (Let's see you try and hold your hand in that position!) Otherwise, great issue. Keep it up.

Jason Marsden
Box 109
Sheridan, WY 82801

Gee, Jason, I don't have too much trouble getting my thumbs to hold that position, and as for E-Man, he learned about human anatomy from reading comic books, so he sees nothing questionable about his digits.

Dear Mike and Joe:

Oh no! What's Teddy Q going to do now? I just heard of Mr. Steven Speilberg's intention to wed Amy Irving. Poor Teddy Q!

Congratulations on the fine, fine quality of E-Man. E-Man #18 increased my liking for Mickey Mauser ten fold. Keep it up folks!

Anthony Mark Koopman
179 Mineral Rd. North
Mineral, WA 98355

There are few things worse than a koala bear scorned. If we hear of Steve's mangled corpse being found surrounded by big round footprints and telltale traces of corn flakes, let's just keep it to ourselves, okay?

Dear Mike & Joe:

E-Man #18 has to be the best story Joe's written since taking over (excluding #19, that is). The humor wasn't literally throw at us — like in issues #1-3 — but there was enough of it to get a few chuckles out of me (i.e. Page 1: "Royko in Grit!").

Joe's art this issue seemed to have improved a bit over the last couple of issues. And I really liked the "back-up" Mike Mauser story by Rick Burchett. However, I do hope you're not going to let him only do one story(??)!

Rosemary is an okay character, I wouldn't mind at all seeing her again in the, *uh*, future. And her time traveling does give E-Man the ability to have adventures *outside* of "now." Think about it, won't you?

All in all, E-Man #18 was the kind of book I hope to see when buying this title. I just hope that it lasts more than just one issue ... which it probably will. Thanks.

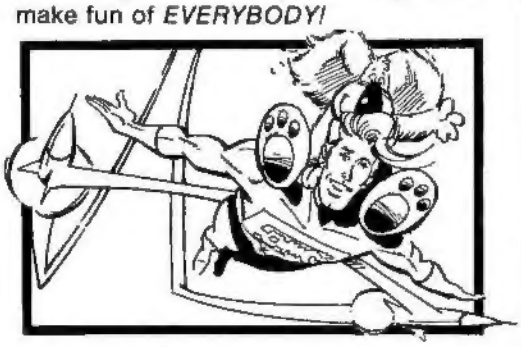
Kevin T. Brown
7846F W. Lawrence Ave.
Norridge, IL 60656

Dear Mike, Joe, and Everyone —

Today I had the special treat of reading E-Man issues 1-10. It's the first I've seen of First Comics. The editorial slant is more similar to DC & Marvel than any of the other "indies" — so is the paper and colors. Maybe that's why I didn't check you guys out until after I scanned Eclipse, Pacific, Americomics, etc. I guess I look to the "indies" for something diff!

Well I say 'thumbs up' on E-Man. The stories don't seem as fresh as the earlier Charlton series, but I can't put my finger on whether it's Cuti's writing I miss, or if Joe's style is subtly different.

Anyhoo, it's still good stuff. There's no other comic like it. I like the stance you have taken in the letter column. Hey, you can't satirize *anything* without offending *somebody*. There's only one thing to do: make fun of *EVERYBODY!*



I especially enjoy your comics-trade parodies. The F-Men were neat. I had the worst acne of 2,100 folks in my high school but do not feel offended by 'zit-pops.'

Nova is my favorite lady in comics. She makes me wish I was a 4-color cartoon character so I'd at least have a *chance* to get close to her.

I'd like to see Debbe Webbe again. Einstein, too. It's not that Einstein wasn't any good, it's just that E-Man doesn't need his thick dialect for narration. Use him as an integral character — I think he'll work better. While you're at it, let's see the ghost of Marilyn Monroe!

Well, guess I'll order issues 11-20!

Johnny Tomanio
Annapolis

Anyone who (like me) misses the scripts of the amazing Mr. Cuti should keep special watch for issue #24, in which Nick makes a special guest appearance as writer to reveal the Secret Origin of Michael Mauser.

NEXT ISSUE: What happens when a very large alligator, a very incompetent magician, and a very, uh, *commercial* gang of teenage mutants try to take over the world? Find out in **E-Man** #23 — "The See-Thru Wars!" That's in two months, following next month's **P.I.'s** in which Mauser and Ms. Tree deal with "Four Color Crime."

— Joe Staton

Rick Obadiah, Publisher

Mike Gold, Managing Editor
Joe Staton, Art Director
Rick Oliver, Associate Editor
Alex Wald,
Production Coordinator

Raph C. Musicant,
Operations Director
Kathy Kotsivas,
Direct Sales Manager

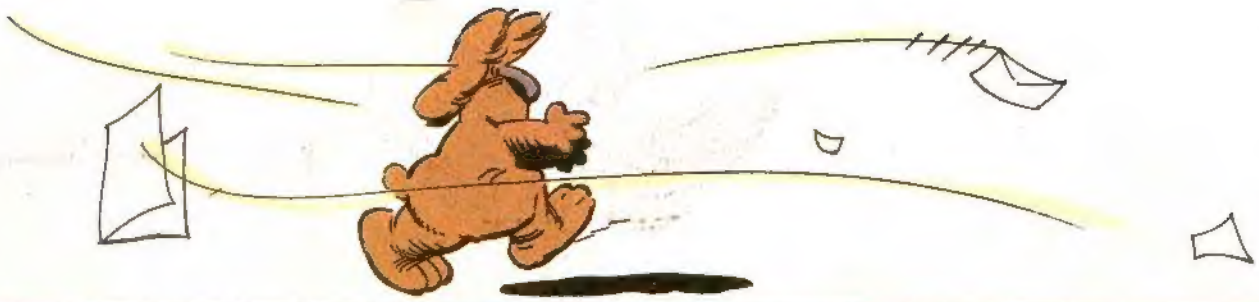
E-MAN ™, Vol. 1, No. 22, February 1985. Published by FIRST COMICS, INC., Mike Gold, President; Rick Obadiah, Secretary; Richard Felber, Treasurer; Kenneth F. Levin and Ralph C. Musicant, Directors. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 1014 Davis Street, Evanston, IL 60201. Published bi-monthly. Copyright © 1984 First Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. Price: $1.25 in the U.S. Subscription rates for twelve issues: $15.00 in the U.S., $17.00 in Canada, and $32.00 foreign rate. All payments must be in U.S. funds. Unmarked bills in small denominations cheerfully accepted by mysterious, unidentified man in dark trenchcoat. We, on the other hand, prefer checks. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this publication are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, without satiric content are intended or should be inferred. E-Man, Alec Tronn, Nova Kane, Michael Mauser, Teddy Q., and all prominent characters featured in this issue are trademarks of First Comics, Inc. Printed in the U.S.A.

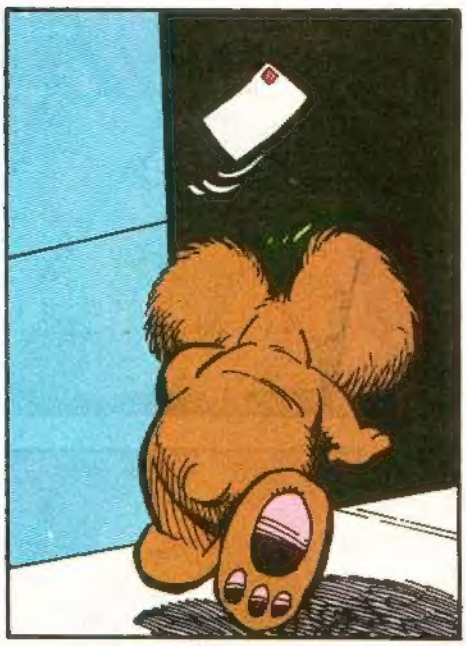
E-Man (ISSN-0746-6560) is published bi-monthly for $7.50 per year by First Comics Inc., 1014 Davis Street, Evanston, IL 60201. Second class postage paid at Evanston, IL. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to E-Man, c/o First Comics, Inc., 1014 Davis St., Evanston, IL 60201.

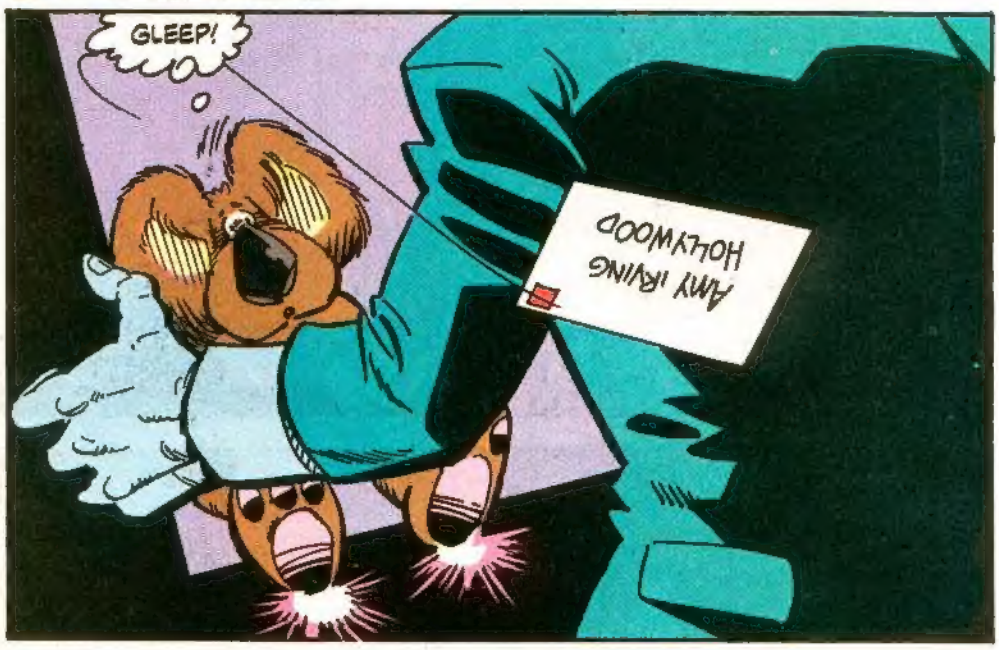
A FIRST COMICS PUBLISHING PRODUCTION

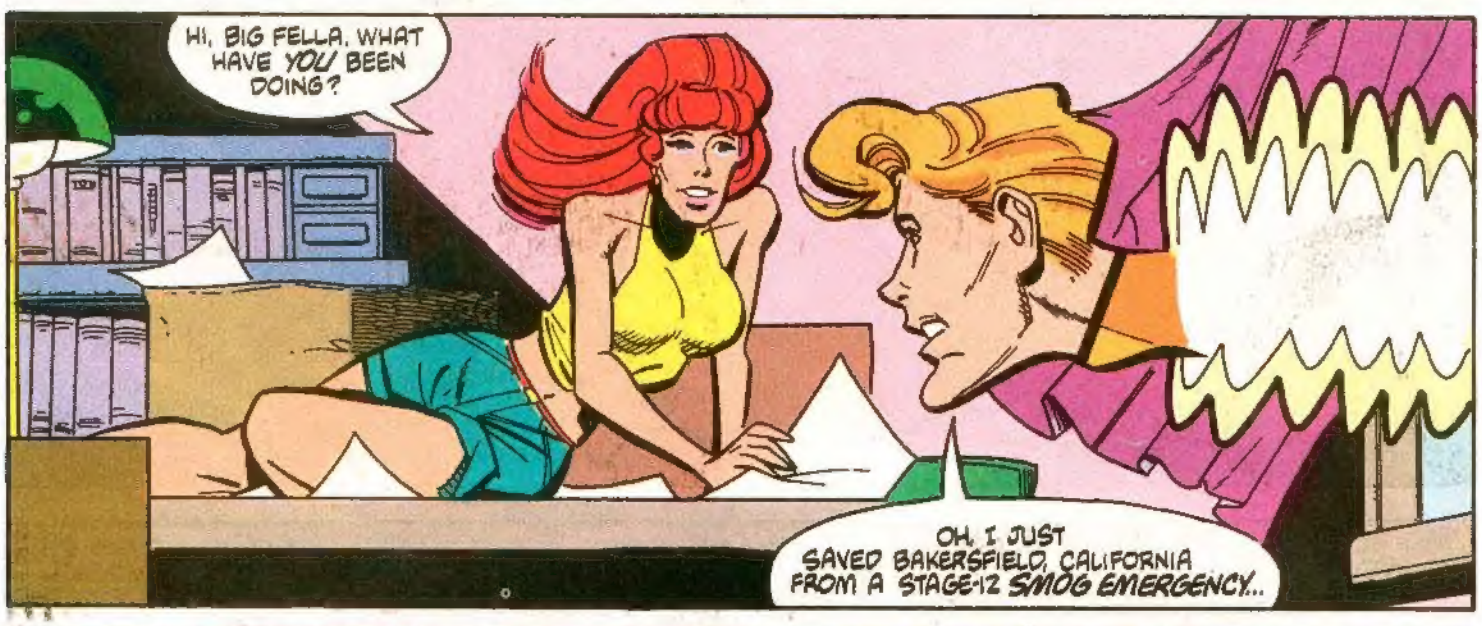
E-MAN
TM
CREATED BY NICOLA CUTI & JOE STATON
WRITTEN BY JOE STATON
ART BY JOE STATON AND RICK BURCHETT
LETTERED BY KEN BRUZENAK
COLORED BY WENDY FIORE
EDITED BY MIKE GOLD
SO YOU THINK IT'S EASY BEING A CUTE, CUDDLY, FUZZY BEAR?
THAT'S P-A-S-S-I-O-N-A-T-E-L-Y...
WRITING ANOTHER LETTER, HUH?
YES, TEDDY Q's DAYS ARE FILLED WITH THE HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY OF HIS LETTER-WRITING CAMPAIGN...
OKAY,--SO THEY'RE JUST LOVE LETTERS TO AMY IRVING. BUT BEFORE THE DAY IS OUT, THE VERY FATE OF THE WORLD WILL REST IN THE HANDS OF...
CAPTAIN KOALA
TM
WELL, MAYBE NOT THE WHOLE WORLD...

LOOK AT THESE OLD AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE-FICTION MOVIE POSTERS I GOT AT THE STUDIO.
I'M GOING TO USE THEM FOR DOWNUNDER WEEK ON MOPPET MONSTER MATINEE.
NOW THIS WAS A GREAT MOVIE!
30 MILLION MILES to WOOMERA
PTUI!
SO WHAT DO YOU KNOW?
HERE'S A STAMP-GO MAIL YOUR STUPID OLD LETTER!
ANN IRVING HOLLY
U.S. MAIL
!
2

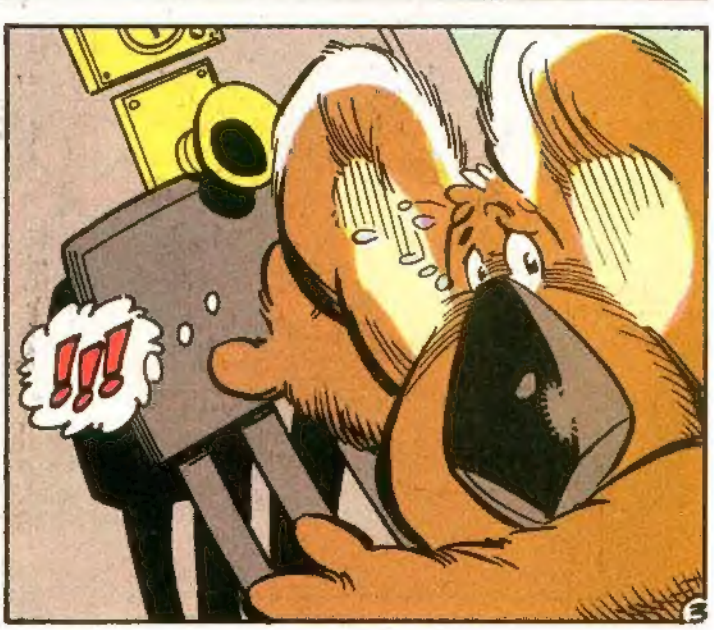




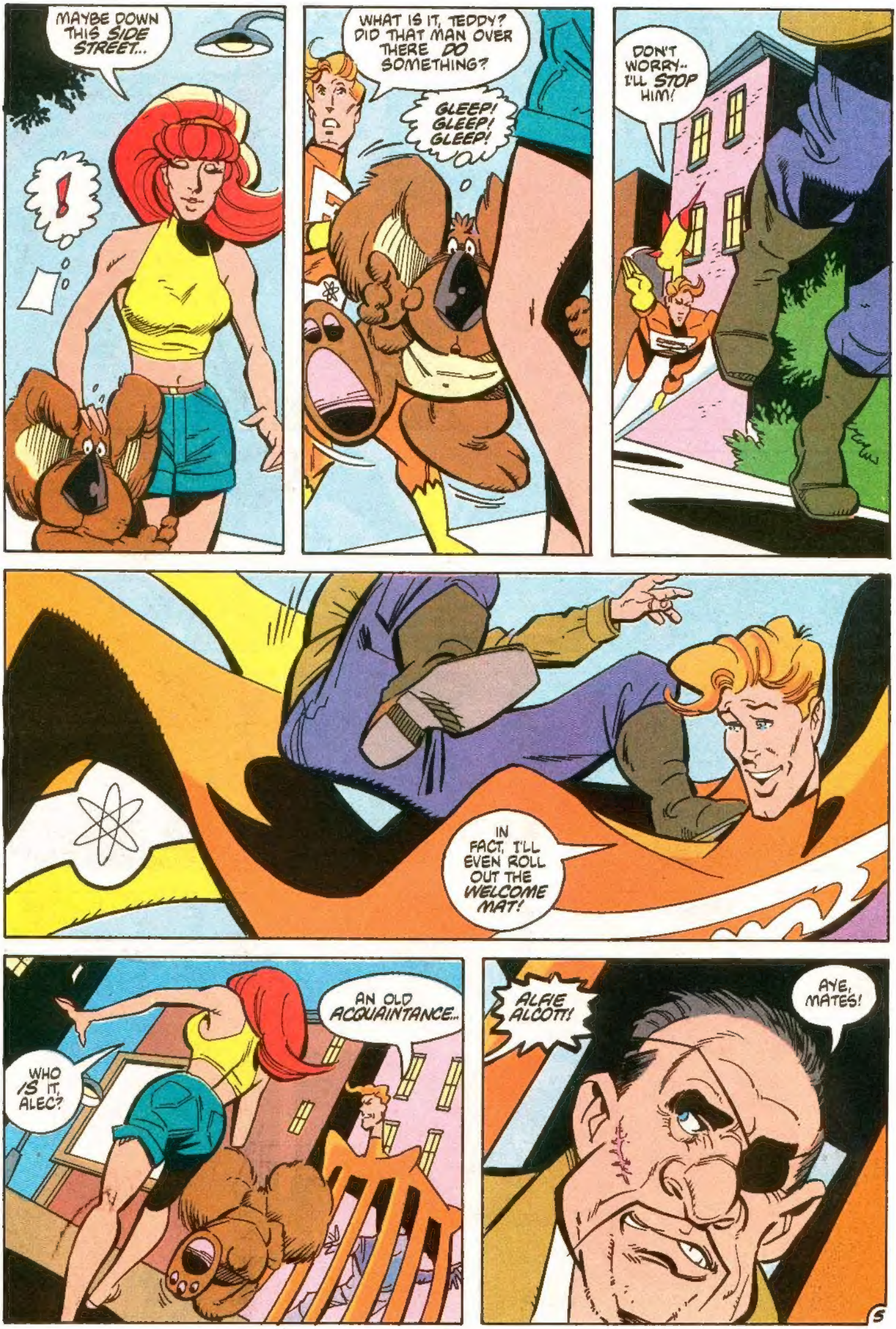

GLEEP!
AMY IRVING
HOLLYWOOD

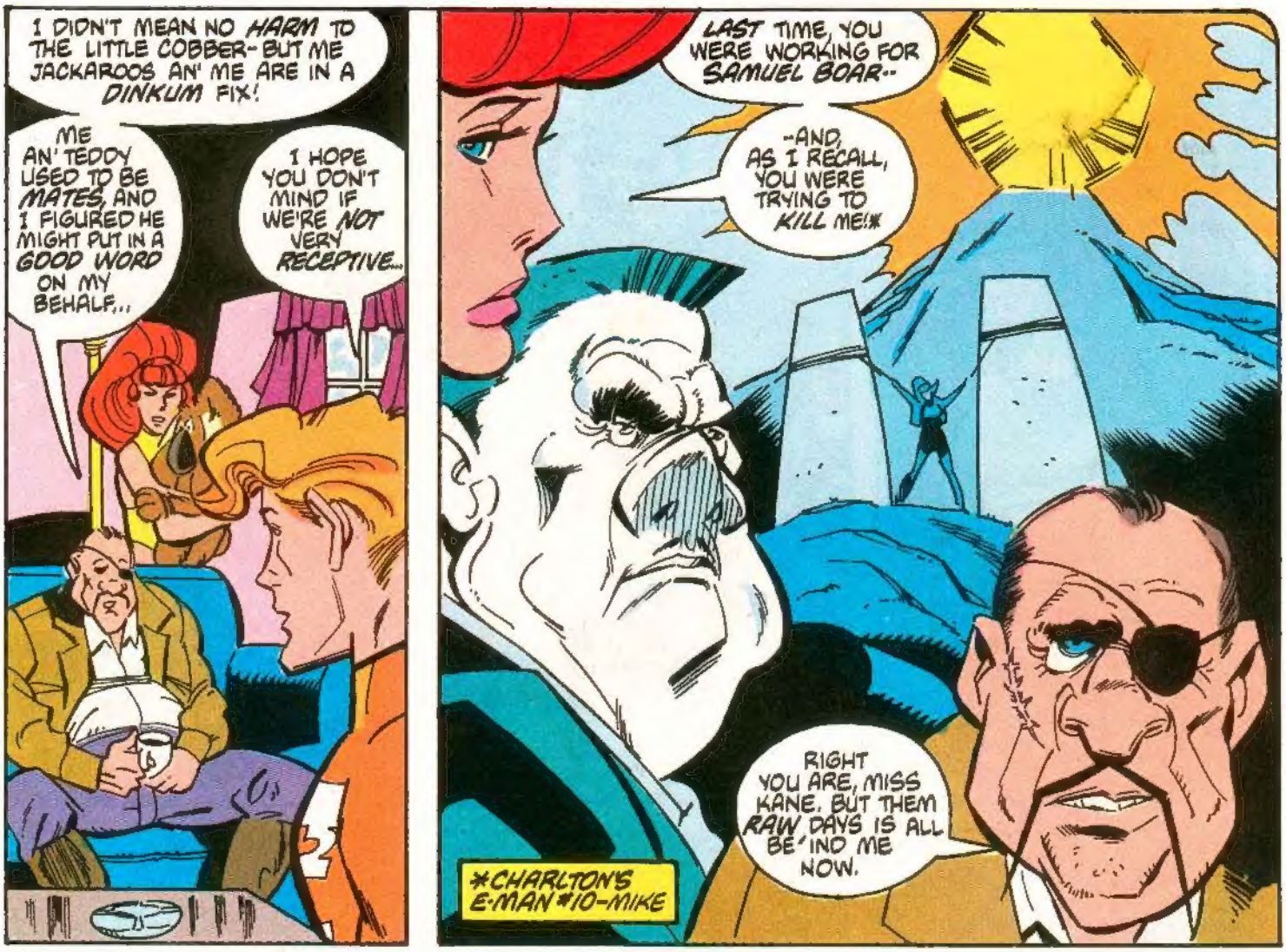

HI, BIG FELLA. WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING?
OH, I JUST SAVED BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA FROM A STAGE-12 SMOG EMERGENCY...

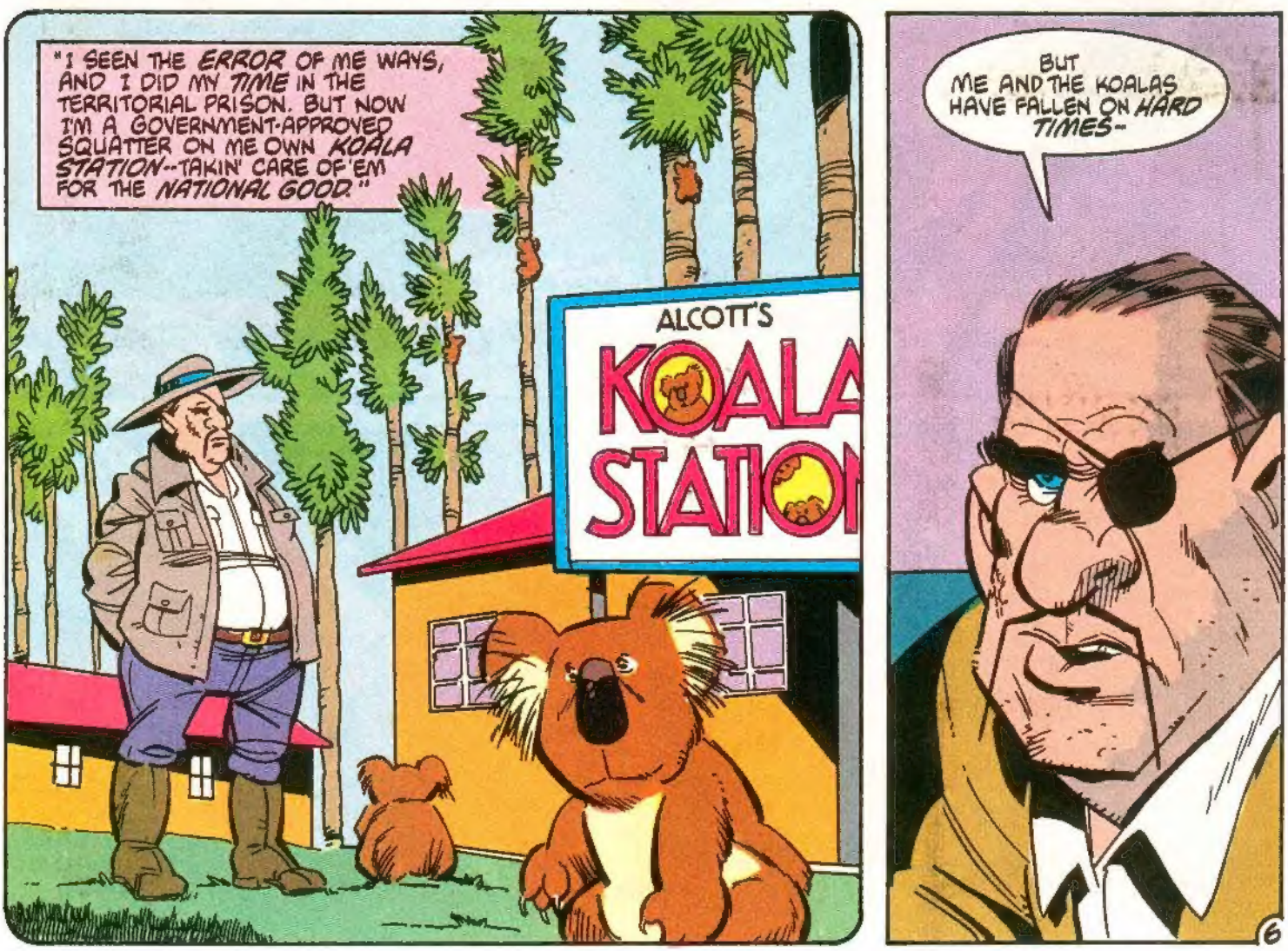
YOU SURE THAT WAS A GOOD IDEA-?
HUH?
SLAM!


!!!

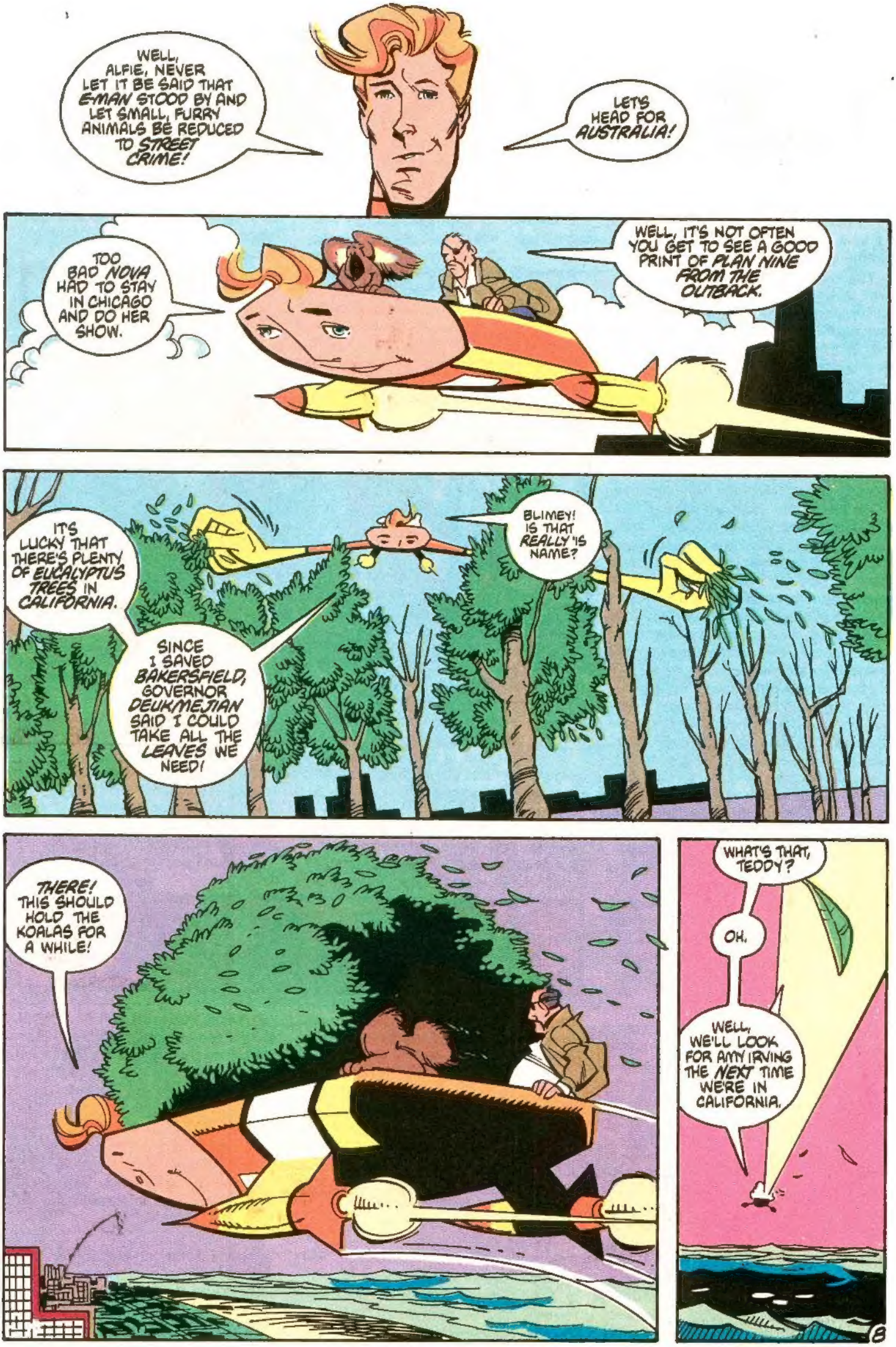
COME ON OUT OF THE CLOSET, TEDDY.
SOMETHING MUST HAVE SCARED HIM, NOVA.
TEDDY, WHAT IS IT?
!
NO, SORRY... YOU COMPLETELY LOST ME...
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO GO FIND OUT FOR OURSELVES.
OKAY, WHAT NOW?
I DON'T SEE ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS..
4


MAYBE DOWN THIS SIDE STREET...
!
WHAT IS IT, TEDDY? DID THAT MAN OVER THERE DO SOMETHING?
GLEEP! GLEEP! GLEEP!
DON'T WORRY.. I'LL STOP HIM!
IN FACT, I'LL EVEN ROLL OUT THE WELCOME MAT!
WHO IS IT, ALEC?
AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE...
ALFIE ALCOTT!
AYE, MATES!
5


I DIDN'T MEAN NO HARM TO THE LITTLE COBBER- BUT ME JACKAROOS AN' ME ARE IN A DINKUM FIX!
ME AN' TEDDY USED TO BE MATES, AND I FIGURED HE MIGHT PUT IN A GOOD WORD ON MY BEHALF...
I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND IF WE'RE NOT VERY RECEPTIVE...
LAST TIME, YOU WERE WORKING FOR SAMUEL BOAR--
-AND, AS I RECALL, YOU WERE TRYING TO KILL ME!*
RIGHT YOU ARE, MISS KANE. BUT THEM RAW DAYS IS ALL BE'IND ME NOW.
*CHARLTON'S E-MAN #10-MIKE


"I SEEN THE ERROR OF ME WAYS, AND I DID MY TIME IN THE TERRITORIAL PRISON. BUT NOW I'M A GOVERNMENT-APPROVED SQUATTER ON ME OWN KOALA STATION--TAKIN' CARE OF 'EM FOR THE NATIONAL GOOD."
ALCOTT'S
KOALA
STATION
BUT ME AND THE KOALAS HAVE FALLEN ON HARD TIMES-

Y'KNOW HOW KOALAS ARE- JUST LIVIN' ON GUM LEAVES--
EUCALYPTUS.
NOW, WE KNOW HE'S A MITE PECULIAR, DON'T WE?
GUM?
OH. TEDDY EATS CORN FLAKES TOO.
"REG'LAR KOALAS DON'T EAT NOTHIN' ELSE, NOR DRINK NOTHIN ELSE, NEITHER--JUST GUM LEAVES!
"BUT SOMETHING'S HAPPENIN' OUT IN THE BUSH. ALL THE GUM TREES IS STRIPPED BARE- NOT A LEAF TO BE SEEN!
"THE KOALAS ARE STARVIN'-
"SOME HAVE TAKEN TO ROAMIN' IN WILD PACKS-RAMPAGIN' THROUGH TOWNS, LURED BY THE SMELL OF EUCALYPTUS-FLAVORED COUGH DROPS!-
CHEMIST
:sniff:
:sniff:
THE AUTHORITIES CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT- AN' I'VE COME ON ME OWN TO ASK FOR YOUR HELP.


WELL, ALFIE, NEVER LET IT BE SAID THAT E-MAN STOOD BY AND LET SMALL, FURRY ANIMALS BE REDUCED TO STREET CRIME!
LET'S HEAD FOR AUSTRALIA!
TOO BAD NOVA HAD TO STAY IN CHICAGO AND DO HER SHOW.
WELL, IT'S NOT OFTEN YOU GET TO SEE A GOOD PRINT OF PLAN NINE FROM THE OUTBACK.
IT'S LUCKY THAT THERE'S PLENTY OF EUCALYPTUS TREES IN CALIFORNIA.
BLIMEY! IS THAT REALLY 'IS NAME?
SINCE I SAVED BAKERSFIELD, GOVERNOR DEUKMEJIAN SAID I COULD TAKE ALL THE LEAVES WE NEED!
THERE! THIS SHOULD HOLD THE KOALAS FOR A WHILE!
WHAT'S THAT, TEDDY?
OH.
WELL, WE'LL LOOK FOR AMY IRVING THE NEXT TIME WE'RE IN CALIFORNIA.

FIRST NOTES

ANY PORT IN A STORM

I've always wanted to quote *The Fugs* on this page.

The Fugs, in case you're unfamiliar, was a terrorist folk/rock band of the 1960s. Its members spanned the era from the beatniks to the hippies; they were social commentators and poets, anarchists and weirdos. They weren't very good musicians, but they could cut to the heart of the matter like nobody's business.

Nearly twenty years ago, they recorded their second album for Warners/Reprise, *It Crawled into My Hand, Honest.* The original title was "The Fugs Eat It!" but Reprise didn't like that. On this particular album, there is a song entitled "Wide, Wide River" — a fun song that, due to its content, could not receive any airplay in the United States (although I once played it on a radio show in Windsor, Ontario). In the middle of the song, the Fugs make an important observation concerning presidential elections. I am paraphrasing it here:

"Isn't it interesting that in this nation — supposedly a democratic nation — we always wind up having to choose between the lesser of two evils. I mean, was George Washington the lesser of two evils? Sometimes I wonder."

I do not believe most people vote for president — I think they vote against the other guy. Most people who voted for Reagan in 1980 didn't vote *for* Reagan, they voted *against* Carter. The bird in the hand was sent out to the bush.

But faced with the choice of Reagan and Carter, most people simply did not vote at all. Of those who bothered to register, only 50% actually voted in the presidential contest. So Reagan wound up winning the approval of only something like 27% of the electorate.

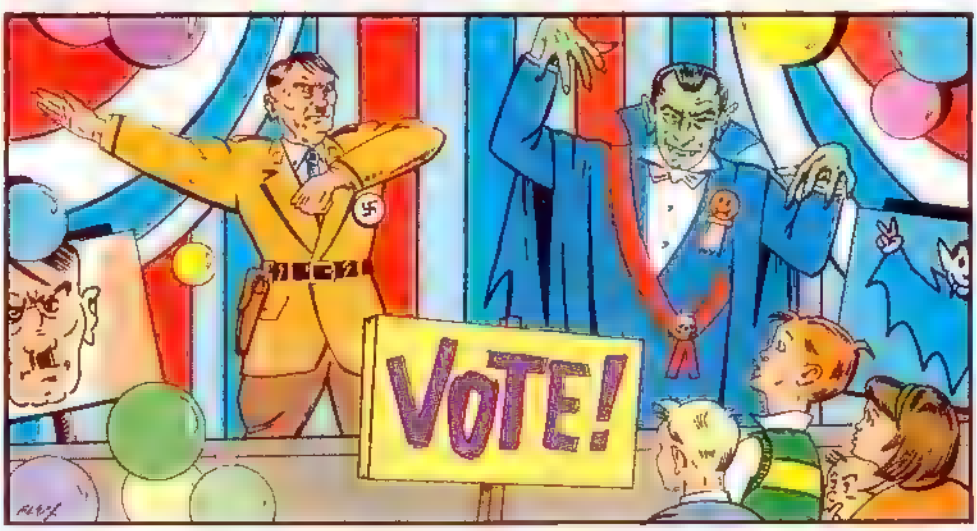
I am not here to put down President Reagan or to ensorse Candidate Mondale for president, or vice versa. I don't think such endorsements are outside the domain of this page; I just don't feel like telling anybody how to vote.

But I do want to encourage you to go out there and vote — for somebody, even if he is the lesser of two evils. If you're extremely cynical and you cannot bring yourself to vote for president, vote for *vice-president* — if this is where you can find a clear choice, great. Maybe you'll get lucky and the president will resign or croak.

(Of course I'm extremely cynical — I just started off this editorial with a quote from The Fugs, didn't I?)

There's lots of good reasons why you should vote, but I'll just tell you one of them:

No matter what you think about the two candidates, no matter whether you vote or you don't, *one of these two guys is going to win.* As Jesse Jackson told the press after his victory in the Virginia Democratic primary, " 'None of the above' can't hold office." Personally, I think that's a real shame and I'd love to try it — but that's the system.



And since one of these two guys is going to win, that guy is going to wield a great deal of power. He is going to nominate Supreme Court justices, he is going to figure out some clever way to raise taxes that may or may not affect you (positively or negatively), he is going to influence legislation, sign legislation, and veto legislation. He could keep us out of war, he might have to respond to threats of war, he might even get us into a war. It's a heavy, terrible job that demands every last drop from the best mind in the nation.

Unfortunately, we're stuck with Reagan or Mondale. But *the job is the same* and all we've got is a choice between these two guys. And one of them is going to win.

Depressing, but true. It's sort of like a four year visit to the dentist.

As you've probably noticed from previous First Notes pages, I'm a great believer in the First Amendment — so I'm not going to say that if you don't vote, you really don't have the right to complain about the outcome. Of course you do.

Just don't do it in front of me.

— Mike Gold

FIRST COMICS IN OCTOBER!

American Flagg! #17: The plot thickens and things get real hot for Reuben north of the border. And down in the Chicago mayoral race, almost everybody's throwing his — and her — hat into the ring. **Howard Chaykin** provides the fun.

E-Man #22: Of course there's a superhero in Australia ... but are you ready for the coming of ... Captain Koala? **Joe Staton** and **Rick Burchett** unleash the most unexpected hero of them all!

Grimjack #7: **John Ostrander** and **Timothy Truman** present the conclusion to The Shadow Cops ... and **The Black Flame** drops into Munden's Bar, courtesy of **Peter Gillis** and **Don Lomax.**

Jon Sable, Freelance #21: An attempted murder and a beautiful fugitive bring out the bounty hunter in **Mike Grell's** hero: Widowmaker, an extremely deadly game of cat and mouse.

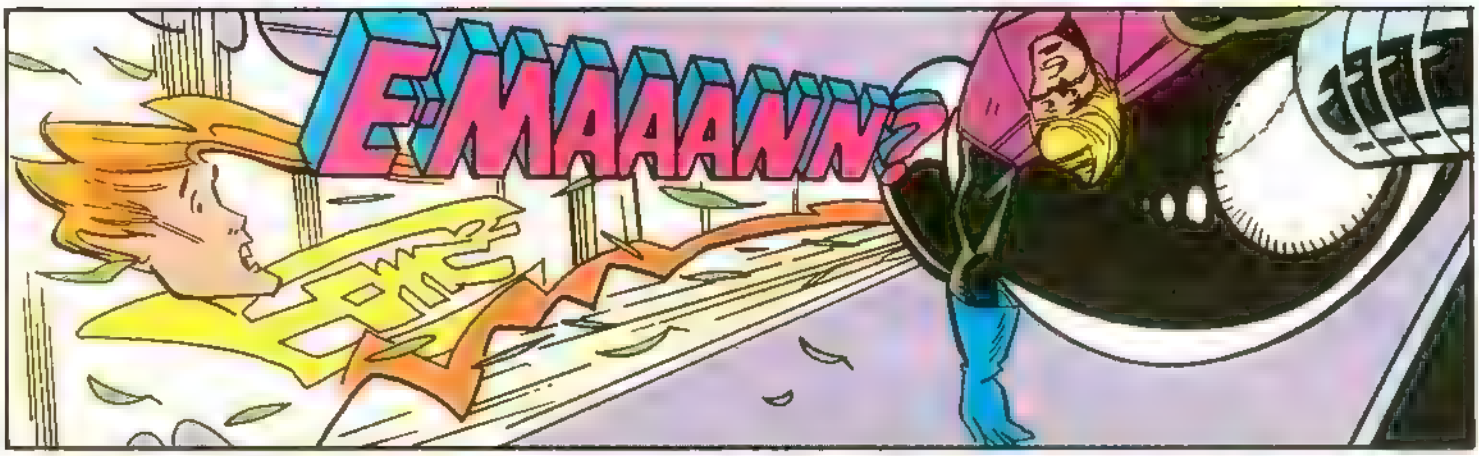
Starslayer #25: Torin returns to Cynosure to encounter a deadly villain he had already slain ... as the Black Flame's mortal friends take on the boogeymen — on their own turf!

Warp #19: At the end of the battle cosmic, who is left standing? **Peter Gillis** and **Mike Gustovich** put Lord Cumulus, Prince Chaos, Sargon and The Outrider through ... The Final Battle!

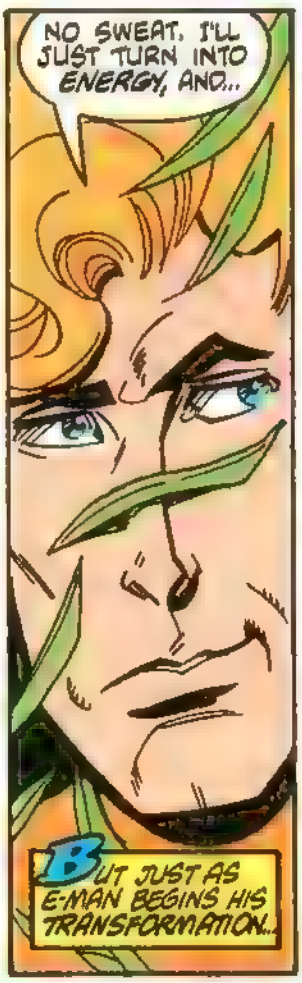
SOON, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD...
MY KOALA STATION! SHE'S RIGHT DOWN THERE BY THE BILLABONG!
GLEEP!
RIGHT, TEDDY, IT'S--
-SUPPERTIME!
CHOMP CHOMP
HIYA, MATE, I'M KID KANGA. I RECKON YOU AND ME ARE IN THE SAME LINE OF BUSINESS.
HUH?
Y'KNOW-- THE SUPERHERO BUSINESS.
OH. UM...
I DON'T MIND TELLING YOU, I COULD SURE USE A SPOT OF HELP ON THIS ONE.
AND THIS IS MY SIDEKICK, BOOMER. HE CAN OUT-BOX ANYBODY-'CEPT ME, OF COURSE. WANT TO GO A FEW ROUNDS WITH HIM WHILE WE TALK?
WELL, I--
THE EUCA-TECTOR HAS LOCATED A FRESH LOAD OF LEAVES AT ALCOTT'S STATION!
9

EXCELLENT! WE NEED MORE LEAVES FOR THE VATS TO FULFILL THE ULTIMATE PLANS OF--
MARSUPIAL MAMA!
GO, MY TASMANIAN DEVILLETTES!
BRING THOSE GUM LEAVES HOME TO MAMA!
CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP
HOLD STILL!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, LITTLE FELLA?
WELL, WASH MY WALLABIES! WHAT IS THAT CONTRAPTION?

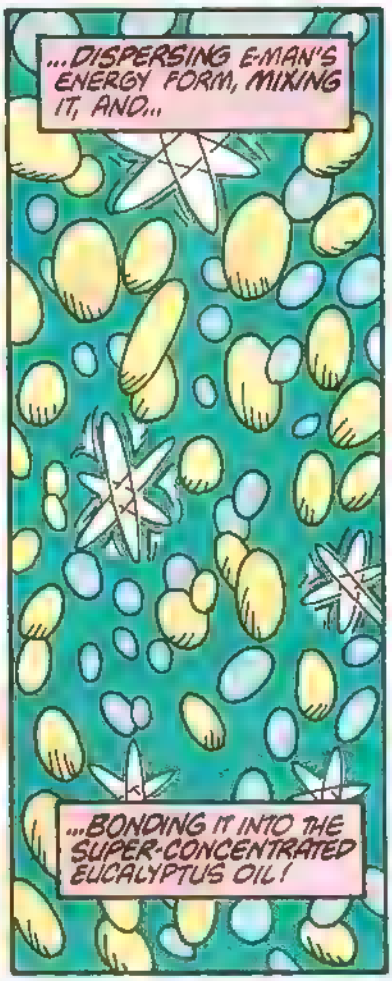
WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S NO MATCH FOR MY KANGA POWERS!
BONGA BONGA
KLANG
:oof: THEN AGAIN, MAYBE IT IS...
PFFFT!
:gak! :koff: A TRAP... THE BANE OF 'ROOS EVERYWHERE...
ESSENCE OF DINGO OFFAL!
SWOOOSSHH
GLEEP! GLEEP!
WHAT'S WRONG NOW, TEDDY
UH-OH. BOXING LESSON'S OVER--
IS THIS EVER A JOB FOR--

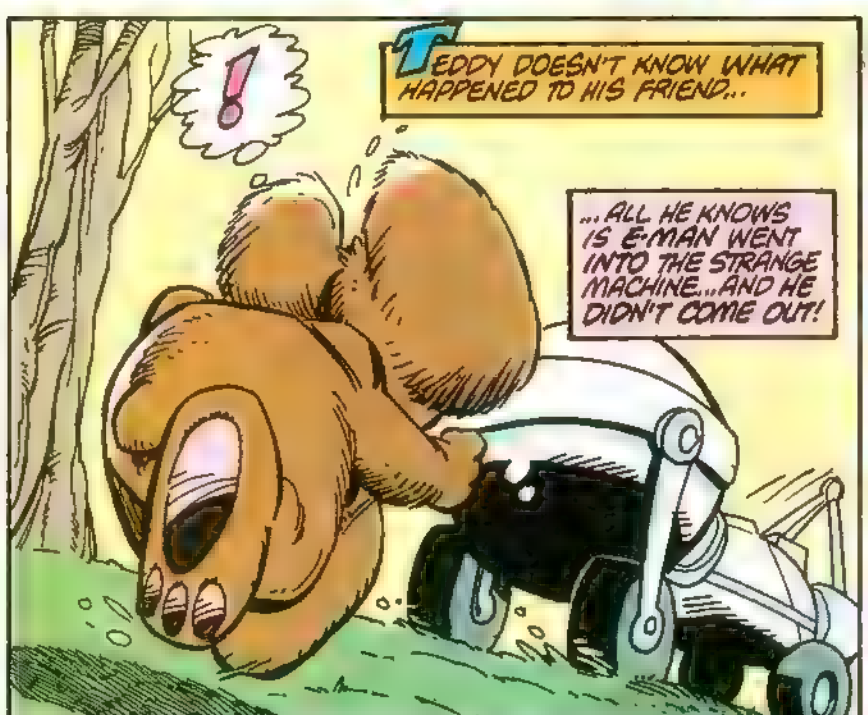

E-MAAANN?
ZAP

WOOF! CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD...GOT SUCKED INSIDE WITH ALL THESE EUCALYPTUS LEAVES...


NO SWEAT. I'LL JUST TURN INTO ENERGY, AND...
BUT JUST AS E-MAN BEGINS HIS TRANSFORMATION...

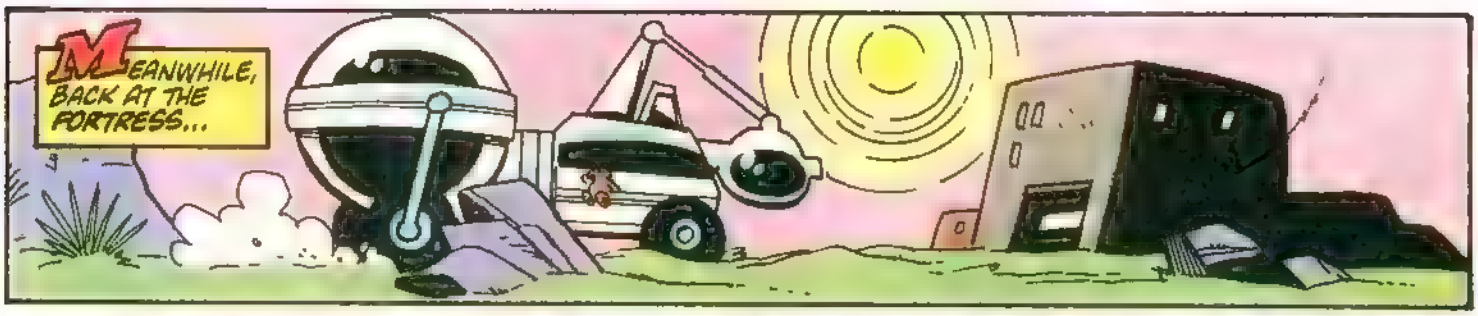
...HUNDREDS OF LASERS FLASH ON...
...REDUCING THE EUCALYPTUS LEAVES TO THEIR BASIC ATOMIC CONSTITUENTS...

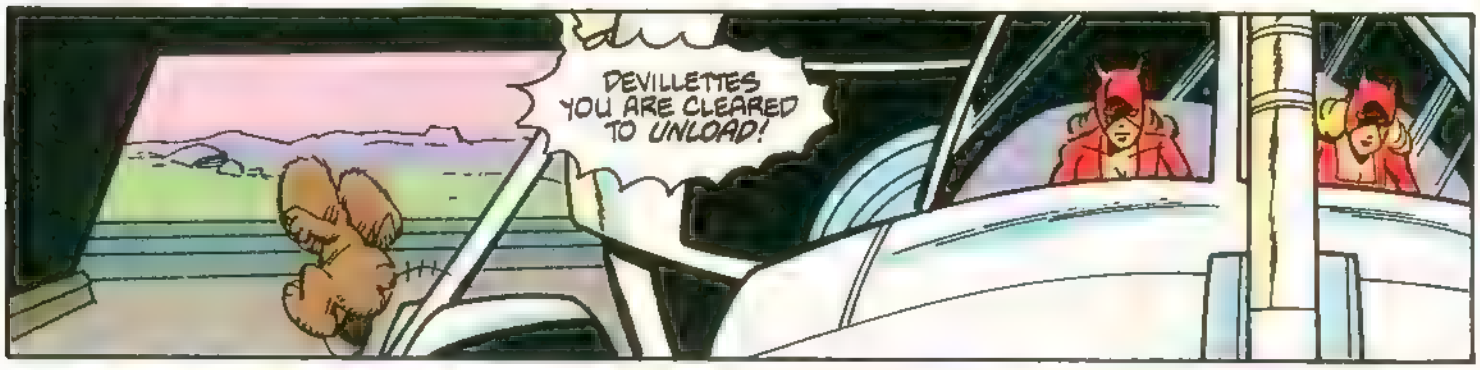

...DISPERSING E-MAN'S ENERGY FORM, MIXING IT, AND...
...BONDING IT INTO THE SUPER-CONCENTRATED EUCALYPTUS OIL!

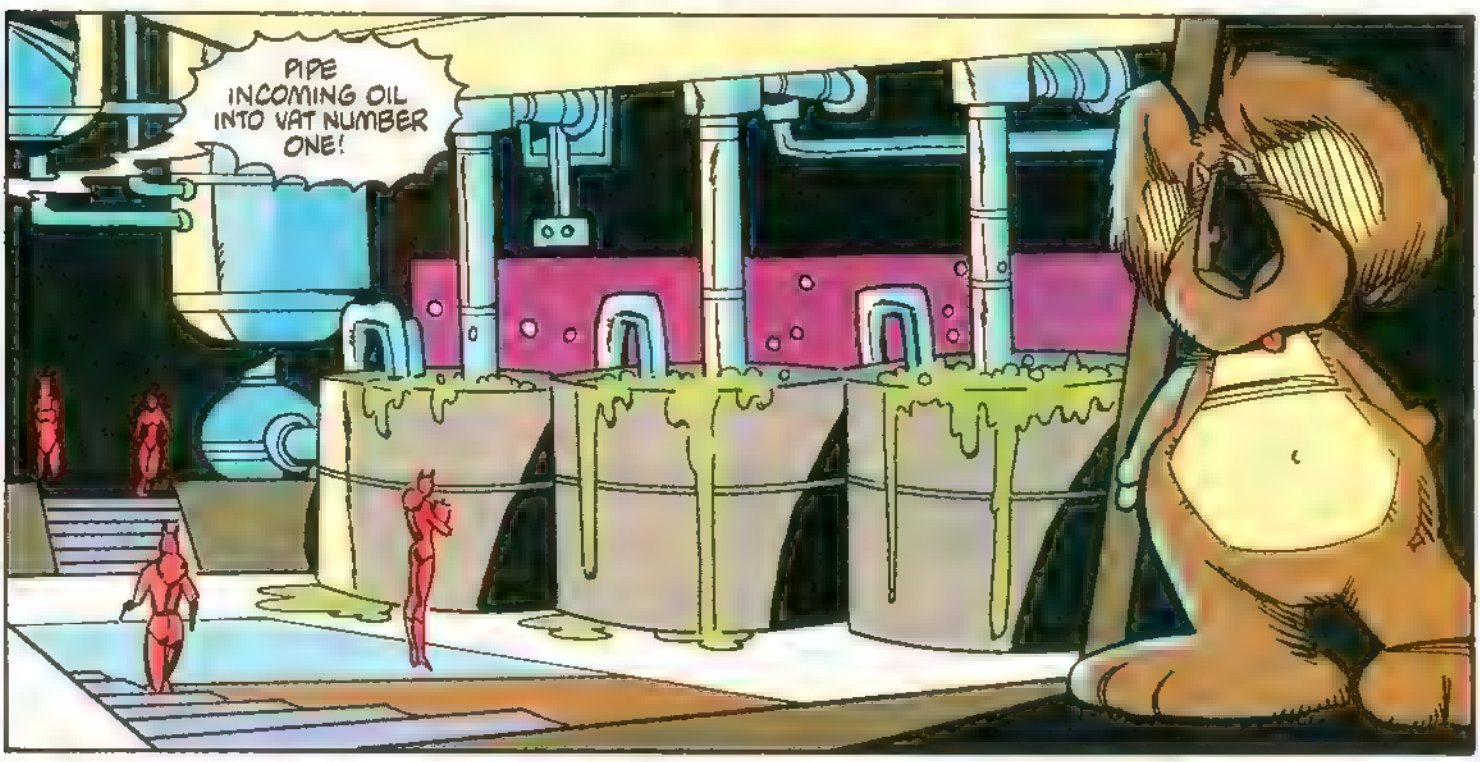

!
TEDDY DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO HIS FRIEND..
...ALL HE KNOWS IS E-MAN WENT INTO THE STRANGE MACHINE...AND HE DIDN'T COME OUT!

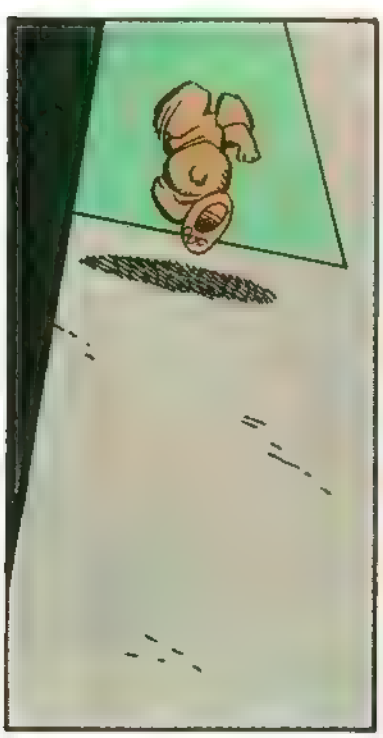
!

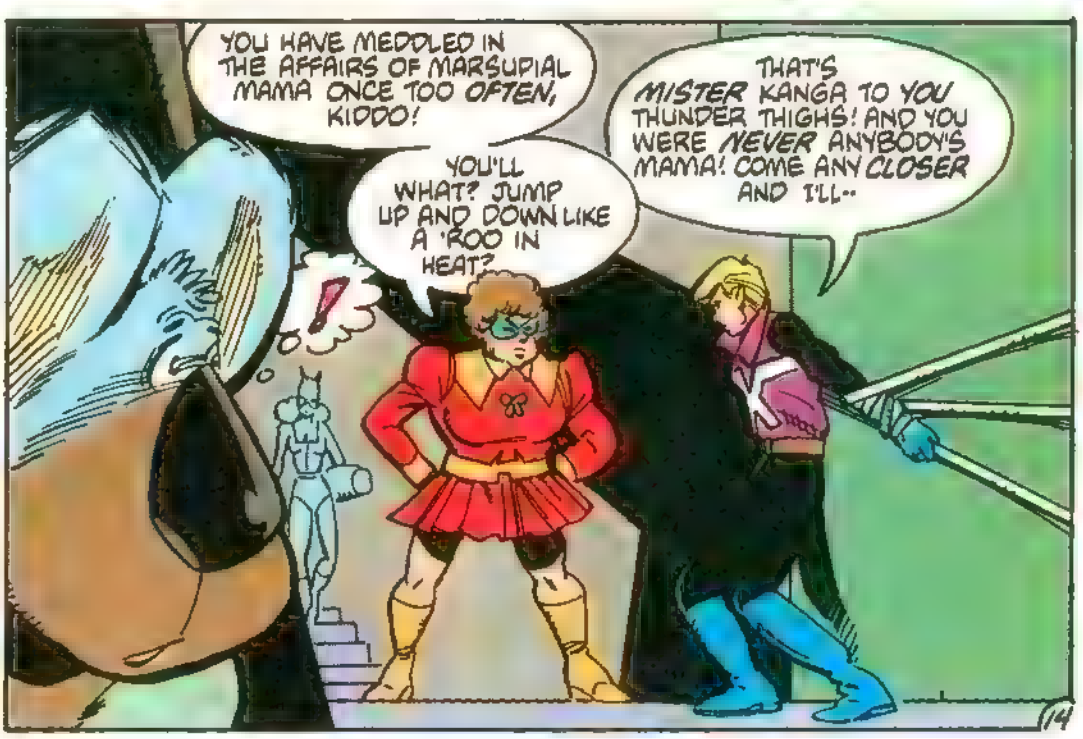
BACK IN CHICAGO, NOVA PREPARES FOR ANOTHER DAY ON THE SET OF MOPPET MONSTER MATINEE.
OH, MISS KANE...
COULD I SEE YOU FOR A MOMENT--?
SURE THING, MR. WALDROP.
I'M ALMOST READY FOR TODAY'S SHOW.
LIKE THE COSTUME?
IT'S FROM MARTIAN RAT PATROL.
I'M ALWAYS AMAZED AT WHAT YOU CAN DO ON MMM'S BUDGET!
BETWEEN YOU AND OUR NEW ANCHORWOMAN, CHANNEL 99'S RATINGS SHOULD GET A REAL BOOST!
ANCHORWOMAN--?
YES. NOVA KANE, MEET OUR NEW AFTERNOON NEWS ANCHORWOMAN--
TYGER LIL!
HELLO, NOVA. NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
13


MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE FORTRESS...

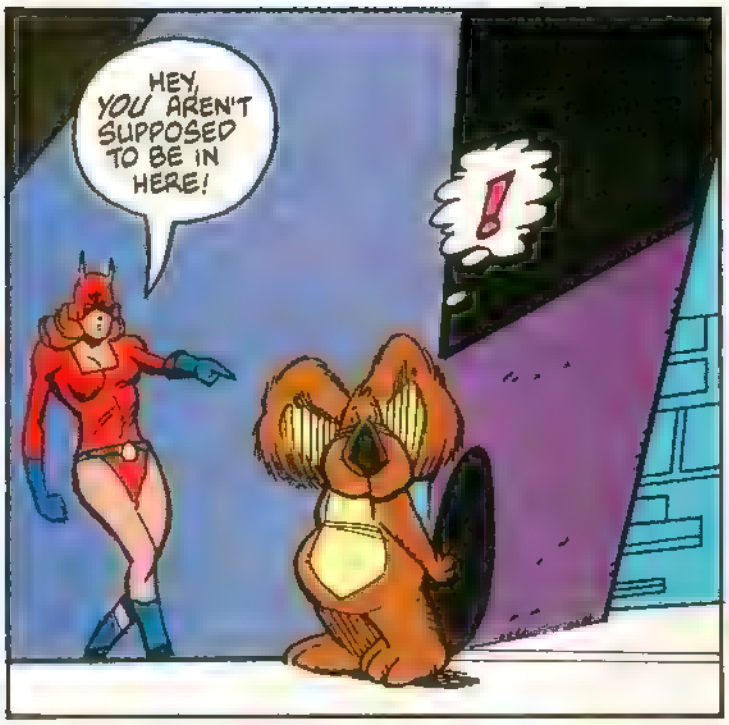

DEVILLETTES YOU ARE CLEARED TO UNLOAD!


PIPE INCOMING OIL INTO VAT NUMBER ONE!



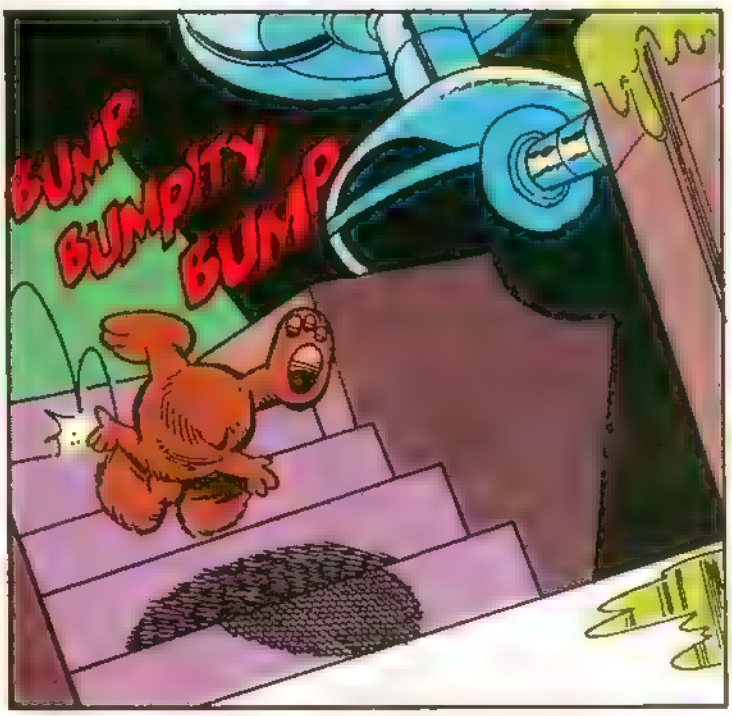

YOU HAVE MEDDLED IN THE AFFAIRS OF MARSUPIAL MAMA ONCE TOO OFTEN, KIDDO!
YOU'LL WHAT? JUMP UP AND DOWN LIKE A 'ROO IN HEAT?
THAT'S MISTER KANGA TO YOU THUNDER THIGHS! AND YOU WERE NEVER ANYBODY'S MAMA! COME ANY CLOSER AND I'LL--

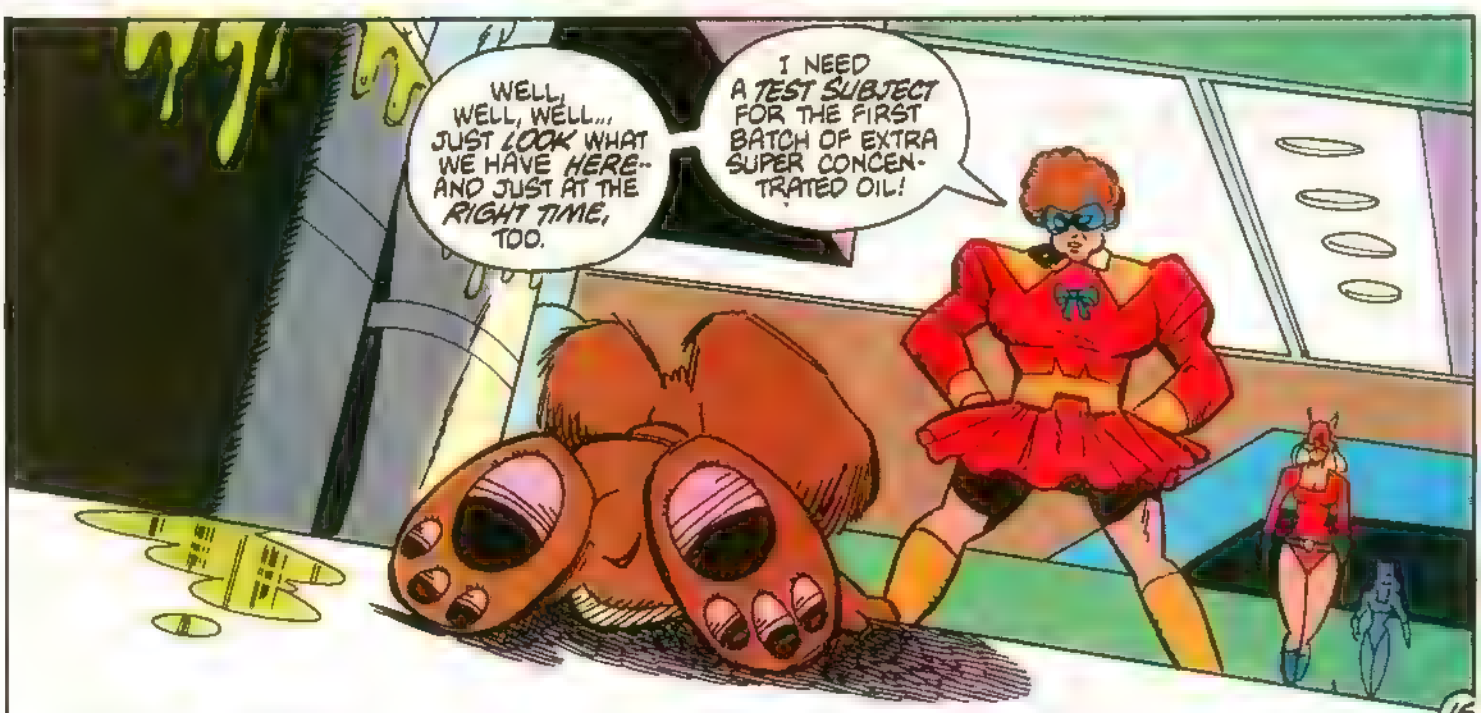
YOUR PATHETIC "POWERS" CANNOT STOP ME FROM REACHING MY GOAL!
BUT WHAT POSSIBLE PURPOSE CAN THERE BE?
"BACK WHEN I WAS RUNNING THE BRISBANE BEAUTY SCHOOL"
"-I THOUGHT CONCENTRATED EUCALYPTUS OIL MIGHT MAKE A GOOD SKIN MOISTURIZER.
"BUT I NEVER GOT THE CHANCE TO FIND OUT--
"-IT STUNK SO BAD, THE GIRLS THREW IT OUT THE WINDOW!
"AND, BY CHANCE, IT SPLASHED ALL OVER A PASSING KOALA...
"WITHIN MINUTES, HE HAD GROWN OVER TWENTY FEET TALL!
"BUT THEN HE SHRANK BACK DOWN ALMOST AS FAST."
BUT I KNEW I WAS ON TO SOMETHING...
IF I COULD GET THEM TO STAY BIG- THINK OF THE PELTS!
I'LL SKIN THE SUCKERS AND MAKE A FORTUNE IN THE KOALA FUR MARKET!
YOU'RE MAD! DON'T YOU KNOW--
15

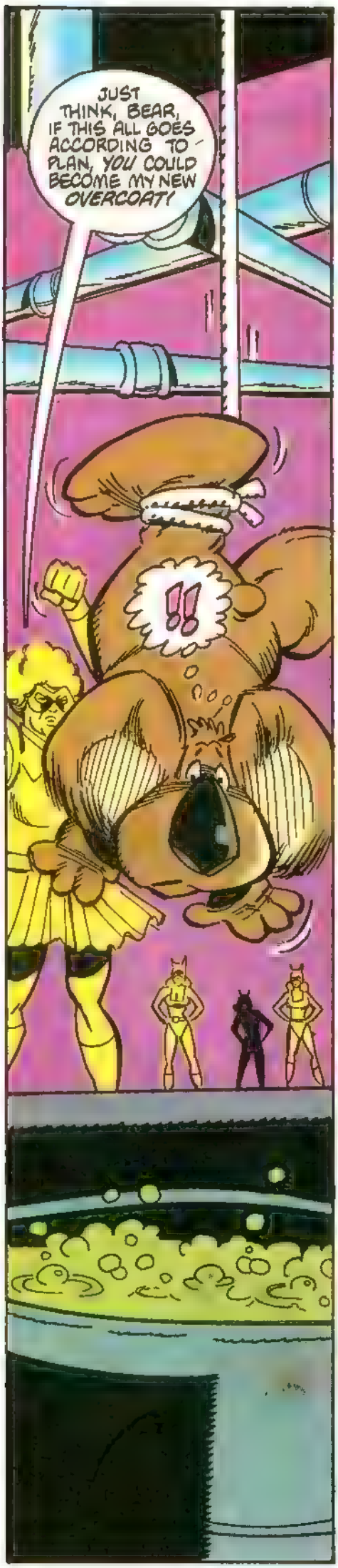

HEY, YOU AREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE IN HERE!
!

GET THAT BEAR!

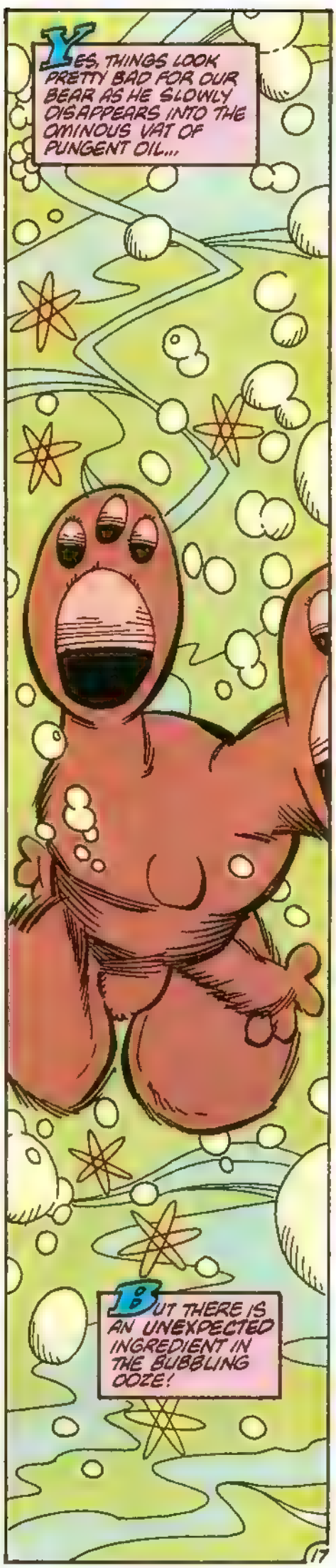
STOP HIM!


BUMP
BUMPITY
BUMP


WELL, WELL, WELL... JUST LOOK WHAT WE HAVE HERE-- AND JUST AT THE RIGHT TIME, TOO.
I NEED A TEST SUBJECT FOR THE FIRST BATCH OF EXTRA SUPER CONCENTRATED OIL!


JUST THINK, BEAR, IF THIS ALL GOES ACCORDING TO PLAN, YOU COULD BECOME MY NEW OVERCOAT!
!!

TEST SUBJECT NUMBER ONE IN VAT NUMBER ONE, AS ORDERED!
YUKK!


YES, THINGS LOOK PRETTY BAD FOR OUR BEAR AS HE SLOWLY DISAPPEARS INTO THE OMINOUS VAT OF PUNGENT OIL...
BUT THERE IS AN UNEXPECTED INGREDIENT IN THE BUBBLING OOZE!

AND SPEAKING OF THE UNEXPECTED...
UGH! WHAT'S THIS MOLDY SANDWICH DOING IN THE FILE CABINET?
MAUSER DETECTIVE AGENCY
I SHOULD GET HAZARDOUS DUTY PAY FOR PACKIN' UP UNCA' MICKEY'S OFFICE!
BUT HE SAYS WE GOTTA MOVE ALL THIS STUFF TO HIS NEW OFFICE IN CHICAGO.
AND I WAS JUST GETTING USED TO NEW YORK...
GEE, UNCA MICKEY SURE HAS A LOT OF FILES...
THERE'S EVEN STUFF FROM WAY BACK IN NEWARK.
LOTSA STUFF ON BOAR... AND MANNY... AND ROSIE— SHE'S SORT OF CUTE.
HEY, I DIDN'T KNOW UNCA MICKEY WAS IN THE ARMY...
OH WELL, I GUESS IF HE WANTS ME TO KNOW ABOUT IT, HE'LL TELL ME HIMSELF.

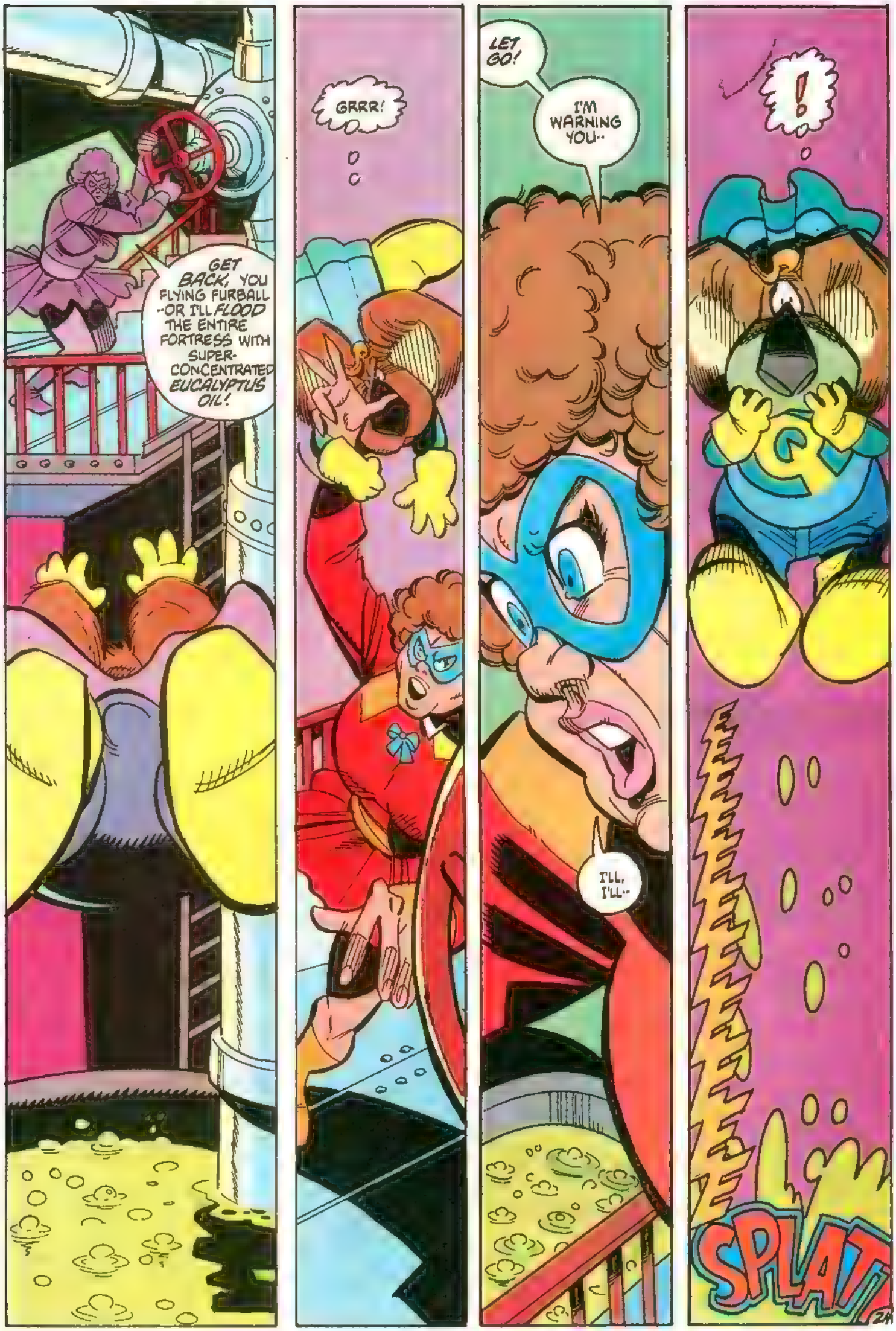
"YOU LIKE THE SUN, BOYS?"
I HOPE YOU DO- BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING TO GET DINKUM FAMILIAR WITH IT IN THE NEXT FEW HOURS!
YOU, BEAR--YOU'RE GOING TO DRY OUT TO BE THE BIGGEST, FLUFFIEST KOALA PELT IN CAPTIVITY!
AND AS FOR YOU, KIDDO--YOU'RE JUST GOING TO DRY UP AND BLOW AWAY!
IT'S TOO BAD NEITHER OF YOU WILL BE AROUND TO SEE ME CORNER THE WORLD KOALA FUR MARKET!
YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH IT!
YEAH? WHY?
BECAUSE KOALA FUR IS SHORT, MATTED AND SMELLS BAD! THERE IS NO WORLD KOALA FUR MARKET!
BUT KID KANGA'S WORDS ARE DROWNED OUT BY MARSUPIAL MAMA'S INSANE LAUGHTER, AS SHE AND HER DEVILLETTES DEPART.

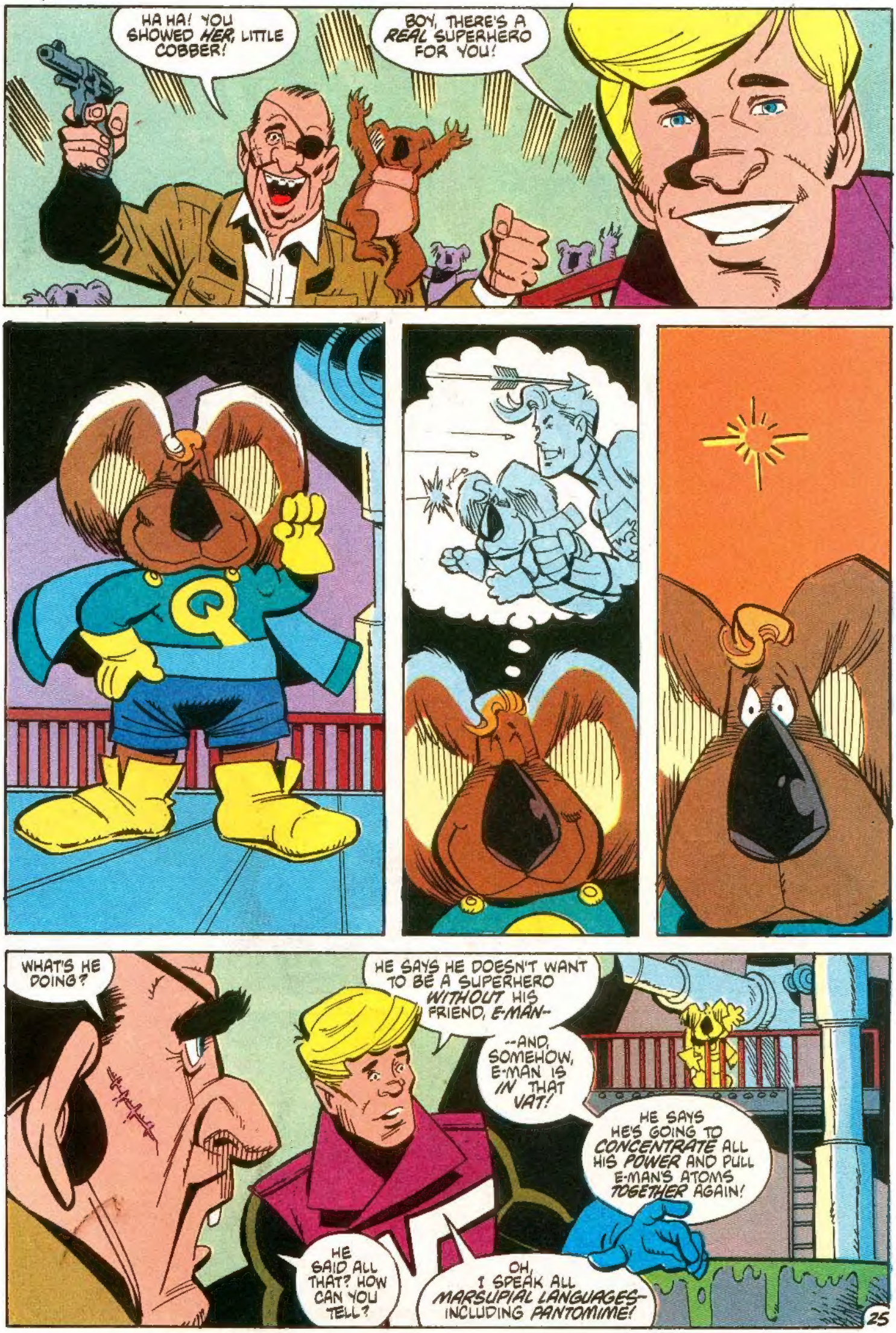
I'LL TRY THE CRY OF THE 'ROOS...
WOOKA
WOOKA WOOOOKKAAA
NO LUCK-- NONE IN RANGE, BUT THEY WOULD HAVE SAVED US IF THEY'D BEEN AROUND!
DO YOU KNOW HOW I GOT THE POWERS OF A KANGAROO?
"I WENT ON AN OUTING WITH ME MUM AND DAD WHEN I WAS VERY SMALL...
"BUT THEY MUST HAVE HAD AN APPOINTMENT OR SOMETHING, BECAUSE THEY FORGOT TO TAKE ME HOME WITH THEM.
"I WAS LOST AND ALONE IN THE OUTBACK.
"I WANDERED FOR DAYS WITH NO FOOD OR WATER. AND JUST WHEN I HAD GIVEN UP ALL HOPE...
!
"A BAND OF 'ROOS TOOK ME IN AND RAISED ME AS ONE OF THEIR OWN.
"THEY TAUGHT ME ALL THEIR WAYS--WHICH WAS PRETTY DARN HARD SEEING AS HOW I DIDN'T HAVE A TAIL AND FELL OVER A LOT.
FFWIIPP!
"BUT I LEARNED TO JUMP REAL HIGH AND BOX REAL GOOD. AND THAT'S HOW I CAME TO BE KID KANGA!
"HEY, TEDDY--WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU?"

CAPTAIN KOALA™
BAKING IN THE HOT AUSTRALIAN SUN, SAUTEED IN SUPER-CONCENTRATED EUCALYPTUS OIL, IMPREGNATED WITH THE ATOMS OF THE ENERGY MAN FROM THE STARS, TEDDY Q IS NO LONGER JUST A KOALA BEAR. HE IS NOW--

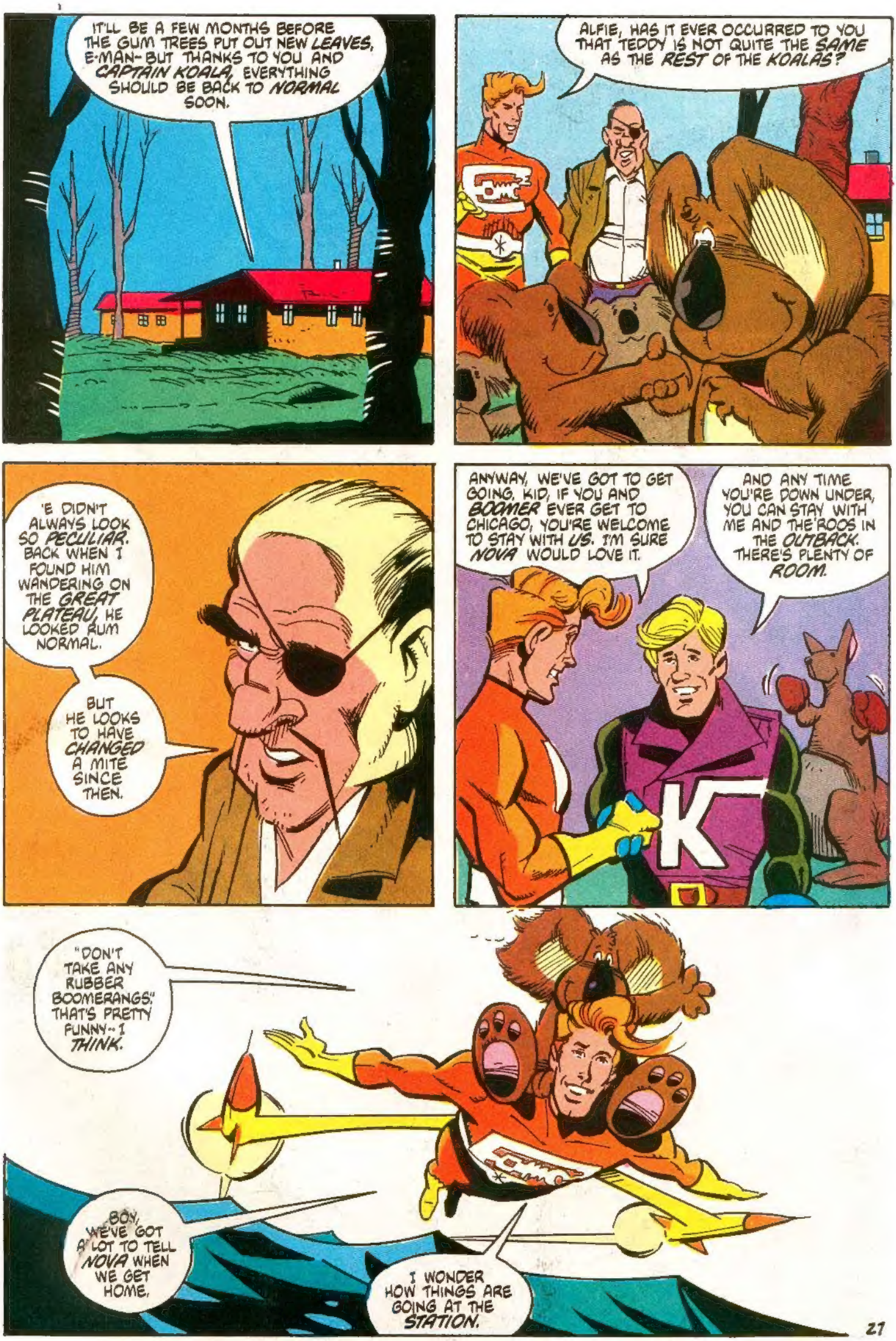
OKAY, OKAY-- SO I DON'T HAVE THE GREATEST ORIGIN STORY..
BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A SHOW OFF!
!
THEN AGAIN, NEVER LOOK A GIFT KOALA IN THE MOUTH.
SHOOOOP!
THANKS! NOW WE'VE GOT TO STOP THIS NONSENSE BEFORE MARSUPIAL MAMA STARTS DIPPING A LOT OF OTHER KOALAS IN THAT MESS!
WHAT'S THAT? THE OTHER KOALAS SHOULD BE IN ON THIS?
YOU'RE RIGHT! LET'S GO GET 'EM!
BY THE WAY, WHERE'D YOU GET THE SUIT?
WE'RE WITH YOU, BOYS--LET'S GET GOING!
THERE'S THE FORTRESS-- WHAT'S OUR PLAN OF ATTACK?
LET'S JUST BASH 'EM!
RIGHTO! SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD PLAN TO ME!

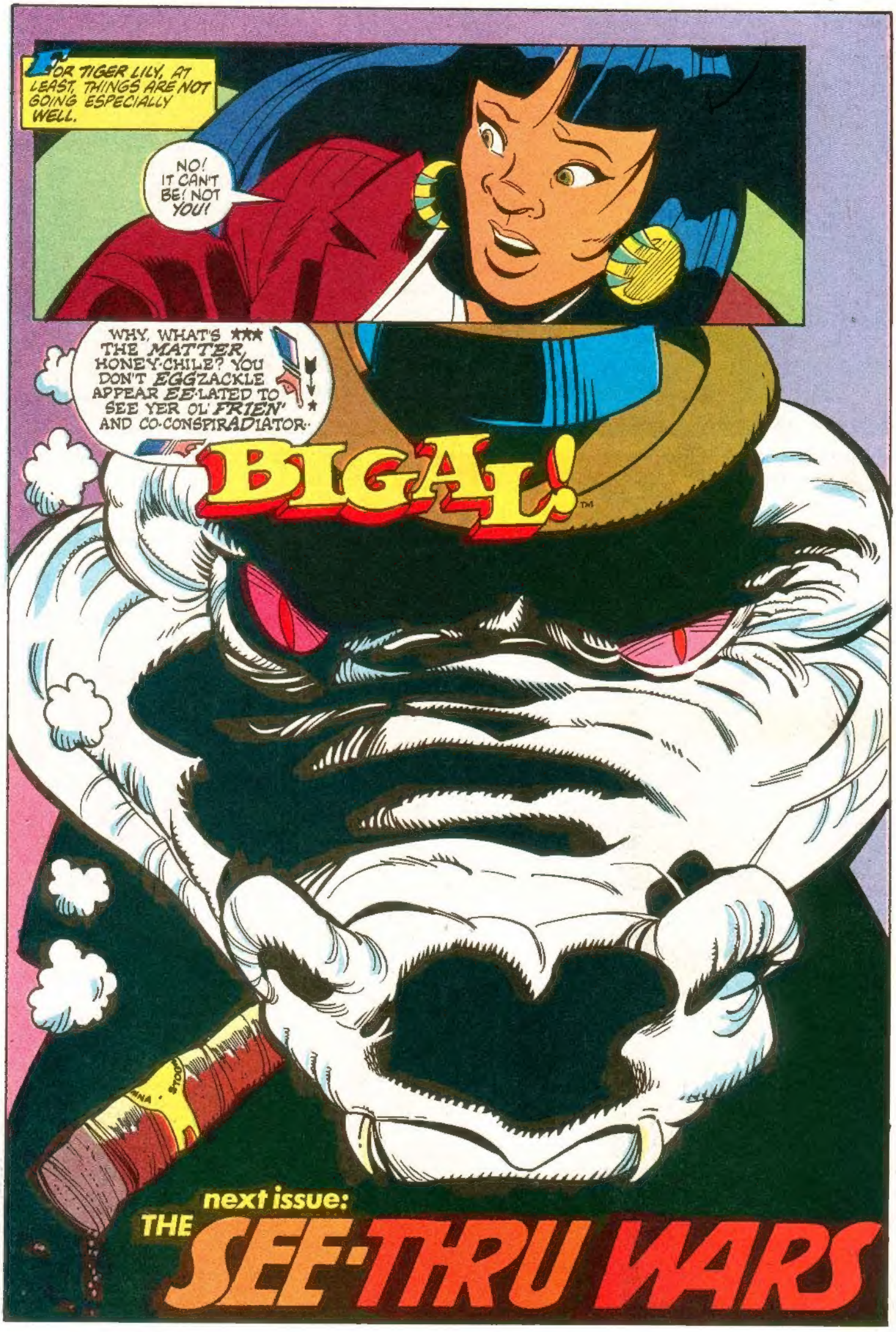
MARSUPIAL MAMA! THERE'S SOMETHING ON THE SCREEN!
KKK
OH, NEVER MIND- THEY'RE HERE!
AAA
ASSH!
KA-POW
STOP THEM, GIRLS!
BRAT-A-T!
BRAT!
LOOK OUT! THEY'RE BREAKING THROUGH!
YIPE! HEY! NO FAIR TRIPPING!
GOOD PUNCHING, KID! THAT MACHINERY WON'T SUCK UP ANY MORE GUM LEAVES!
HA! WE'VE GOT THEM NOW- BUT WHERE'S MARSUPIAL MAMA?
AND CAPTAIN KOALA, FOR THAT MATTER?
HOW'D YOU KNOW THAT WAS HIS NAME?


GET BACK, YOU FLYING FURBALL --OR I'LL FLOOD THE ENTIRE FORTRESS WITH SUPER-CONCENTRATED EUCALYPTUS OIL!
GRRR!
LET GO!
I'M WARNING YOU..
I'll, I'll--
!
SPLAT!


HA HA! YOU SHOWED *HER*, LITTLE COBBER!
BOY, THERE'S A *REAL* SUPERHERO FOR YOU!
WHAT'S HE DOING?
HE SAYS HE DOESN'T WANT TO BE A SUPERHERO *WITHOUT* HIS FRIEND, *E-MAN*--
--AND, SOMEHOW, E-MAN IS *IN* THAT *VAT*!
HE SAYS HE'S GOING TO *CONCENTRATE* ALL HIS *POWER* AND PULL E-MAN'S ATOMS *TOGETHER* AGAIN!
HE SAID ALL THAT? HOW CAN YOU TELL?
OH, I SPEAK ALL *MARSUPIAL LANGUAGES*— INCLUDING *PANTOMIME*!

A GRIMLY DETERMINED CAPTAIN KOALA FOCUSES ALL HIS POWER ON VAT NUMBER ONE...
TEDDY.. WHAT HAPPENED-?! I REMEMBER BEING VERY SOGGY...
WHEW!
WHILE, IN VAT NUMBER TWO...
NO, NO! YOU'VE RUINED EVERYTHING...
...EVEN MY PERM!


IT'LL BE A FEW MONTHS BEFORE THE GUM TREES PUT OUT NEW LEAVES, E-MAN- BUT THANKS TO YOU AND CAPTAIN KOALA, EVERYTHING SHOULD BE BACK TO NORMAL SOON.
ALFIE, HAS IT EVER OCCURRED TO YOU THAT TEDDY IS NOT QUITE THE SAME AS THE REST OF THE KOALAS?
'E DIDN'T ALWAYS LOOK SO PECULIAR. BACK WHEN I FOUND HIM WANDERING ON THE GREAT PLATEAU, HE LOOKED RUM NORMAL.
BUT HE LOOKS TO HAVE CHANGED A MITE SINCE THEN.
ANYWAY, WE'VE GOT TO GET GOING, KID, IF YOU AND BOOMER EVER GET TO CHICAGO, YOU'RE WELCOME TO STAY WITH US. I'M SURE NOVA WOULD LOVE IT.
AND ANY TIME YOU'RE DOWN UNDER, YOU CAN STAY WITH ME AND THE 'ROOS IN THE OUTBACK. THERE'S PLENTY OF ROOM.
"DON'T TAKE ANY RUBBER BOOMERANGS." THAT'S PRETTY FUNNY-- I THINK.
BOY, WE'VE GOT A LOT TO TELL NOVA WHEN WE GET HOME.
I WONDER HOW THINGS ARE GOING AT THE STATION.


FOR TIGER LILY, AT LEAST, THINGS ARE NOT GOING ESPECIALLY WELL.
NO! IT CAN'T BE! NOT YOU!
WHY, WHAT'S ★★★ THE MATTER, HONEY-CHILE? YOU DON'T EGGZACKLE APPEAR EE-LATED TO SEE YER OL' FRIEN' AND CO-CONSPIRADIATOR.
BIGAL!™
next issue:
THE SEE-THRU WARS